The article by Dr. Dean appeared in the British Medical Journal. The UPI story is by science editor Delos Smith.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
San Francisco, California
November 20, 1959

African Statistics

Pollution of Air Blamed in Cancer

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (UPI)—Yet another large-scale statistical study of a now familiar subject is notable because it didn't get the familiar result.

It concluded that a greatly increased atmospheric pollution over cities may be the "major factor" in the sharp rise in lung cancer deaths over the past few decades.

It is notable also because its basic statistics were the lung cancer deaths among the white population of the Union of South Africa. This population smokes more cigarettes per capita than any other in the world.

But its rate of lung cancer deaths has been and remains low when compared with the rates for the United States, the Irish Republic and Great Britain which are second, third and fourth in per capita cigarette smoking.

DOUBLING

This inspired Dr. Geoffrey Dean of Port Elizabeth to study the well-kept South African vital statistics with the help of government statisticians. Between 1947 and 1956 the lung cancer death rate among males doubled.

Yet this was a smaller rate of increase than in the U. S. or Great Britain. Dean related this to the fact that South African urban atmospheres became increasingly polluted in that period. Those atmospheres were less polluted, however, than those of American and British cities.

Dean compared the lung cancer death rate of males born in South Africa with the rates for men who had emigrated there from Great Britain and other countries. Among men who were less than 65 years old when they died, the rate was 45 per cent higher for British emigrants than for natives or for other emigrants. Above the age of 65 there was no difference.

EARLY POLLUTION

This indicated to Dean that the British emigrants under 65 had been subjected to the polluted atmospheres of British cities for longer periods before they moved to the relatively cleaner atmospheres of South Africa. Relying on other statistical tables, he assumed that the older men had been in South Africa much longer and so had the same risk as natives.

Still another statistical point was a comparison of lung cancer death rates in cities and in rural districts. In South Africa, the rural cigarette consumption is comparable per capita to that of the cities. Dean said and if cigarette smoking were the principal factor in lung cancer, the lung cancer death rates would be comparable.

THE DEGREE

But they weren't. The urban rate was much larger than the rural. Dean went further. He compared the relative atmospheric pollution of South African cities and showed that generally speaking, the death rate was pegged to the degree of pollution.

In his report to the British Medical Journal, Dean said "environmental factors" had to be chiefly responsible for the increases in male lung cancer death rates. One such factor, he said, was cigarette smoking.

"However," he added, "the relatively low incidence of lung cancer generally among the heavy-smoking South African men, the higher and rapidly rising incidence in the growing cities and the high incidence in the younger age group of immigrants from Britain, suggests that the air pollution which occurs in modern industrial life —smoke, smog, traffic fumes, etc.—may be a major factor."

NEW YORK POST
New York, New York
October 30, 1959

S. African Lung Cancer Deaths Low

London, Oct. 30 (Reuters)—A leading South African doctor reports in the British Medical Journal that white South Africans—the heaviest smokers in the world—had a low lung cancer mortality rate.

Dr. Geoffrey Dean, senior honorary physician at the hospital of Port Elizabeth, said that the South African city man over the age of 35 smoked an average of 24 cigarets a day and his country cousin over 35 an average of 23 a day.

He conceded that the death rate from lung cancer in South Africa had doubled during the last 10 years but, he added, the mortality rate was still relatively low.

He blamed the increasing lung cancer mortality rate among South African-born on "the rapid industrialization and growth of the cities during the past 4[illegible] years."

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